

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03249 011709Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W  
-----011711Z 012724 /47

O 011618Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9486

CONFIDENTIAL BRUSSELS 3249

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY VANCE AND UNDER SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.) PFOR BE  
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PARIS SCHEDULE

REF: (A) SECTO 03079, (B) BRUSSELS 3222

1. VAN ELSLANDE IS PLEASED THAT THE SECRETARY WILL MEET WITH HIM. VAN ELSLANDE WILL APPEAR AT THE U.S. EMBASSY RESIDENCE IN PARIS AT 1:00 PM, APRIL 2, ACCCOMPANIED BY CHEF DE CABINET VAN BELLINGHEN AND PROBABLY DIRECTOR GENERAL VANDEN BLOOCK. VAN ELSLANDE WANTS TO AVOID PUBLICITY.

2. I AM PREPARED, OF COURSE, TO COME TO PARIS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING IF YOU THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN TERMS OF FOLLOW UP. PLEASE ADVISE THIS EVENING.

3. VANDEN BLOOCK TELLS ME THAT HE EXPECTS VAN ELSLANDE TO COVER THE FOLLOWING GROUND WHEN HE TALKS TO THE SECRETARY:

A. BELGIUM IS PUZZLED BY THE DISPARITY BETWEEN WHAT THE U.S. IS PREPARED TO DO TO AID MOBUTU AND WHAT THE U.S. APPEARS TO WANT BELGIUM TO DO. WHEN I PRESSED VANDEN BLOOCK TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BE PRECISE, HE REPLIED THAT BELGIUM WANTED TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. BUT WAS UNWILLING TO GET OUT IN FRONT.

B. THE POLITICAL LIMITS ON WHAT BELGIUM CAN DO TO ASSIST MOBUTU ARE TIGHT. MOBUTU IS NOT POPULAR IN BELGIUM. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO COME UNDER HEAVY

DOMESTIC POLITICAL FIRE FOR STEPPING UP MILITARY AID TO MOBUTU THAN FOR STANDING BY AND WATCHING HIM FALL.

C. WHEN PRESSED TO BE CONCRETE ABOUT HOW FAR THE BELGIANS WOULD GO TO HELP MOBUTU, VANDEN BLOOCK CONFIRMED THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT PROBABLY WOULD DECIDE TO PERMIT LIGHT ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO BE SOLD TO ZAIRE IF THIS APPEARED ESSENTIAL. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD DO IF AN EFFORT WERE MADE BY SOME FOREIGN ENTITY TO RECRUIT MERCENARIES HERE. VANDEN BLOOCK SAID THAT SUCH RECRUITMENT WOULD NOT BE AGAINST BELGIAN LAW. HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT PREDICT WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK THE OTHER WAY OR TRY TO DISCOURAGE RECRUITMENT.

D. THE BELGIANS EXPECT KOLWEZI TO FALL. IN THIS EXPECTATION, VAN ELSLANDE MAY WELL ASK THE SECRETARY WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE TO THINK ABOUT WHO MIGHT REPLACE MOBUTU AND WHAT POLICIES HE SHOULD FOLLOW TOWARD THE KATANGAN OCCUPATION OF SHABA. VANDEN BLOOCK WOULD NOT BE PINNED DOWN FURTHER. RENNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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